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THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 38 www.associatednewspapers.net

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Vol. 135, No. 38

Van Buren Township officials have two events this Saturday to help families cope with the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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For the seventh consecutive year, the Charter Township of Northville has been awarded the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

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THE WESTLAND EAGLE
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Motorists in Westland will be graphically reminded to slow down in several areas by solar powered radar signs.

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Help wanted

Local clerks seeking poll workers for Nov. 3 election

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

> *"It is my opinion residents should consider working at least once to learn what it's like on the other side of the table.*

Local municipal clerks are expecting a huge voter turnout for the Nov. 3 presidential election, with heavy voting both in-person at the polls and by absentee ballot.

That presents a special need, they agreed, for more and better trained poll workers this year.

"It is my opinion residents should consider working at least once to learn what it's like on the other side of the table. Personal involvement can be inspirational when one considers the overall process and how it comes together on Election Day," said Westland City Clerk Richard LeBlanc.

LeBlanc, a former state representative, said he is especially proud of one poll worker in the city who has worked at elections for nearly 60 years.

"The security and safety of the voting process is made so due to the involvement of numerous people." Even though most election workers come together only two-three times each year, he said that interaction enhances relationships and community spirit.

The day runs from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and poll workers are paid. They receive training on their duties in advance.

"We need people willing to step up. It's a good feeling when it's done, their fundamental right to vote," explained Plymouth Township Clerk Jerry Vorva

In Westland, the pay rate is $170. The Westland worker application link is: http://www.cityofwestland.com/Home/ShowDocument?id=13318.

Applicants must be a Michigan registered voter. LeBlanc calls new recruits a "godsend" but also notes concerns some have with in-person work due to COVID-19.

In Plymouth Township, the election inspectors (their official title) are paid from $175 on a scale up to $300 a day for a vice chair, or $350 for a chair. "They have to have some experience," noted Vorva, "and the day is long, too."

Vorva noted that poll workers will need to state their party to be an election inspector, and those who support a third party or who consider themselves an independent are acceptable. A Republican and a Democratic presence are at each precinct for fairness, he said.

"If you're new, we put you in with experienced people It's kind of a quasi-volunteer thing. You're helping them with that franchise," said Vorva. The plymouthtownship.org website under "Government/Clerk" has signup details, with pay also given for training.

Presidential races bring out more voters, so LeBlanc and other municipal clerks are encouraging #VoteAbsentee. It's far more work for his staff and the AV Counting Board but "relieves strain at the physical precinct," said LeBlanc. "It also affords the voter additional time and resources while in the comfort of their home to consider candidates and proposals before casting their votes."

Westland City Hall on Warren Road has a 24-hour city-mail only mailbox in its parking lot where ballots can be returned. There's a 24-hour deposit slot on the front face of Westland City Hall, and weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. inside city hall there's a ballot delivery slot for the clerk's counter portion.

"Some people have experienced mail delivery concerns, and the best way to ensure your ballot makes it to us on time is to bring it directly to us," LeBlanc said.

Vorva too has seen concerns on COVID-19 and notes inspectors will work in safe conditions, with face masks, gloves, and shields at precincts. A Fire Department millage renewal in Plymouth Township will bring out voters, as will other ballot measures, he said. Absentee ballot counting that night is almost "assembly-

See **Polls,** page 4

Congresswomens' visit prompts call to police

Two visitors invited to visit the Amazon fulfillment center in Romulus last week were surprised to be described as trespassers to local police.

Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib said Friday that police were called while she and fellow Congresswoman Debbie Dingell attempted to visit the facility to observe working conditions.

Tlaib and Dingell called for a federal investigation into Amazon coronavirus mitigation protocols in May after receiving complaints from employees at the Romulus center. The visit Friday was, the elected officials said, at the request of workers and an invitation from Amazon officials.

Tlaib said that she and Dingell waited for an hour and a half at the Romulus warehouse but were admitted only after police were called.

"They told us it was a misunderstanding, but we were completely taken aback," Tlaib added. "Despite their claims to the contrary, there was no misunderstanding. They knew exactly who we were," the lawmakers said in a prepared statement. The congresswomen said that workers had complained about the lack of coronavirus protection provided by Amazon in a letter to federal officials back in May. Workers cited a lack of available cleaning supplies, inflexible leave policies and an inability to maintain social distancing. "Once we were finally allowed inside, and despite an hour and a half spent prepping the facility, we got a firsthand look at the unacceptable and unsafe conditions that workers have been telling our offices about for months. We plan to release additional documentary photos and footage from our visit soon," Tlaib and Dingell said.

Rashida Tlaib

Debbie Dingell

"In short, we observed many of the conditions that concerned Amazon workers have reported to our offices over the last few months. Employee screening is poorly executed, cleaning is insufficient, social distancing is often difficult or impossible, and Amazon's relentless quota system does not allow for breaks for

See **Amazon,** page 3

Belleville - Inkster

Van Buren plans 2 giveaways Saturday

Van Buren Township officials have two events this Saturday to help families cope with the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first free giveaway is set from 10 a.m. until noon or while supplies last. Parents can drive children up to the Parks and Recreation office entrance on the east side of the building at 46425 Tyler Road to pick up a free Insect Adventure Kit.

"Our hope is to get kids to be more active and get outside," said Deputy Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Zaenglein. "We want all kids to explore the micro-world around them."

The kits are recommended for ages 4-10 and limited to the first 100 participants. Inside each kit, children will find a butterfly net, insect glasses, information about the insects in Michigan, and much more, Zaenglein said. This event is sponsored by a grant from Michigan Recreation and Parks Association (mParks) and Taste The Local Difference Michigan.

The second event is hosted by the R.E.A.L. Summer Youth Program. Students, along with Detroit Wane Integrated Mental Health (DWIHN) staff, will be distributing free school supplies and mental health awareness information to Van Buren Public Schools students in grades K-12.

This giveaway is planned from noon until 4 p.m., or while supplies last, at Harris Park, located at 10151 Belleville Road, just south of Aldi. A school ID is required. "We're excited to kick off this school year in R.E.A.L. style," said Nicole Sumpter director of Human Resources. "Stop by the park to meet some students from the program, grab some food, and get some supplies to help you succeed this school year."

The R.E.A.L. School Supplies event will have two food vendors on site. Ice cream from Culvers and hot or cold sandwiches, fries, and more from food truck Hero or Villain. This event is sponsored by the Van Buren Township R.E.A.L Summer Youth Program and DWIHN.

"We're really excited to be offering two free giveaway events for the students of Van Buren Township," said Supervisor Kevin McNamara. "We hope these events will ease some of the burdens on back to school supplies and provide some fun activities for VBT families."

For more information about the R.E.A.L. event, contact Sumpter at nsumpter@van-buren-mi.org or call (734) 699-8900 EXT 9293. #forREALvbt.

Art smart

Rotary Club of Belleville members gather behind the more than 50 packages of art supplies they assembled at the Fraternal Order of Eagles pavilion to donate to Van Buren Public Schools including Haggerty, Tyler, Savage, Rawsonville, Edgemont and Owen elementary. President Deb Green, below left, presented the supplies to Van Buren Public Schools District Resource Nurse Dionisia Munoz. Pandemic control measures make it difficult for students to share supplies so individual sets are desperately needed at each school, a spokesman noted.

Comcast opens Inkster store

Inkster residents welcomed a new neighbor last week with the opening of a new retail Comcast store in the city.

The new 3,024-square-foot facility is part of the Comcast multi-million-dollar nationwide commitment to improve customer service, according to a company spokesman.

The new store is located at 27195 Cherry Hill Road, just east of Inkster Road and features contemporary hands-on displays and seating areas where customers can interact with all Xfinity products from internet, video and connected home solutions to Xfinity Mobile. Patrons can learn from trained technology specialists how to get more value from these products.

"Giving our customers a space to try out our products is the best way to educate them on how our technology can provide more convenience and added value," explained Melissa Bahoora, Comcast vice president of sales in Michigan. "This new store also gives us a chance to enhance the customer experience through safe face-to-face interaction and top-notch service."

The new Xfinity store provides a safe in-person store experience for both customers and employees. Personal protective equipment (PPE) is available for employees and customers, including face masks, gloves, hand sanitizers and disinfecting wipes. To ensure proper social distancing, Comcast has installed plexi-glass dividers between interaction areas. Shared surfaces, tools and devices are cleaned and disinfected after every use. To ensure the health and safety of everyone, the ratio of one customer per full-service sales consultant is maintained. Customers waiting to be serviced are invited to wait outside or in their cars.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, October 1, 2020 for the following:

SHINGLE ROOF REPLACEMENT - FLEET BUILDING

Bids may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department, on the MITN Purchasing Group website at https://www.bidnet-direct.com/mitn/cantontownship or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: 734/394-5225. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

MICHAEL SIEGRIST, CLERK

Publish 9/17/2020

CN2102 - 091720 2.5 x 2.049

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton held on September 8, 2020, the Board of Trustees adopted an amendment to the Zoning Map of the Zoning Ordinance (Article 8.00 of Appendix A - Zoning, of the Code of Ordinances of the Charter Township of Canton) to rezone parcel nos. 052-99-0042-000, 052-99-0044-001 and 052-99-0044-002 (located on the north side of Cherry Hill Road between Lotz Road and N. Hix Road) from R-6, Single-Family Attached Residential to R-4, Single-Family Residential District.

This amendment to the Zoning Map of the Zoning Ordinance shall take effect upon the expiration of seven (7) days after its publication date. Copies of the amendment may be viewed or obtained at the Canton Township Administration Building, Office of the Township Clerk, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, MI 48188 during regular business hours.

Publish: September 17, 2020
Effective Date: September 24, 2020

CN2102 - 091720 2.5 x 1.834

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon notice to the Charter Township of Canton.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Charter Township of Canton will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: The Charter Township of Canton does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title II of the ADA.

Effective Communication: The Charter Township of Canton will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the Charter Township of Canton's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The Charter Township of Canton will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in the Charter Township of Canton's offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton should contact the office of Barb Brouillette, Human Resources Coordinator, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260 as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the Charter Township of Canton to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to Barb Brouillette, Human Resources Coordinator, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260.

The Charter Township of Canton will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

Publish: 09/17/20

CN2101 - 091720 2.5 x 4.72

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE
Advertisement for Bleacher Demolition
Northville Community Center

Bids will be received by the Clerks Department via electronic submittals to Katie Anderson at kanderson@twp.northville.mi.us by 2:00 P.M. Monday, October 5th, 2020.

The Township hereby solicits bids from qualified contractors for the complete removal and disposal of wooden bleachers and metal frames at the Northville Community Center, 303 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167. Information on the project is available on the Northville Township website at www.twp.northville.mi.us/projects along with all bid documents, and can be obtained by contacting the Parks and Recreation Department at 248-508-5314.

Additional information may be obtained from the Parks & Facilities Supervisor, Nathan Reilly at nreilly@twp.northville.mi.us. Questions regarding the project shall be brought to the attention of the Nathan Reilly, Parks and Recreation Department, via email to nreilly@twp.northville.mi.us. Questions not accepted after 12:00 P.M. Friday, October 2nd, 2020.

Marjorie Banner, Township Clerk

Publish: September 17, 2020

NT0088 - 091720 2.5 x 2.434

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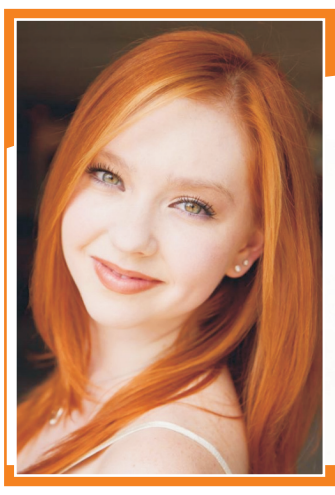

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CITY OF ROMULUS
Board of Zoning Appeals
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING - October 7, 2020

Notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus will hold a public hearing at **7:00 p.m**. on **Wednesday, October 7, 2020** for the purpose of considering the following:

1. BZA-2020-010; Michael Rzeppa requesting a variance from Section 3.05(a)(2) to allow a fence in the front yard, which is an exterior yard, at 28419 Cherry. The property is zoned R-1B, Single-family Residential District and fences on corner lots cannot extend in front of the building line of the exterior side yard (Harrison). The petitioner is proposing to replace an existing nonconforming fence that is in a state of disrepair.

2. BZA-2020-011; Ashley Capital requesting a variance from Section 48-7, Table 48-7 of the Sign Ordinance to allow two, 200 -sq. ft., 14-foot high real estate development signs where up to 64 sq. ft. per sign is allowed. The subject property is located at the southwest corner of Wick and Vining Road (Parcel ID #80-061-99-0001-706)

The public hearing will be held via the ZOOM Meeting app.

Join Zoom Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81821606933

Meeting ID: 818 2160 6933
Dial: 1-312-626-6799

Written comments may be submitted and should be addressed to the Planning Department, 12600 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174-1485 or planning@romulusgov.com.

Persons with disabilities who need accommodations to effectively participate in the meeting should contact the Carol Maise, City Planner at 734-955-4530 or send an email to planning@romulusgov.com by 8:00 a.m. the day of the meeting to request assistance. Closed Captions will be provided upon request.

Publish: September 17, 2020

RM0527 - 091720 2.5 x 5.075

ROMULUS

‘Diversity’ prompts company move to Romulus

Calling the City of Romulus “the perfect fit” a premier provider of business process solutions will be moving to the community.

FCR will move the company contact center operations into the city. The proposed expansion is part of an FCR pledge to continue bringing opportunity and jobs to smaller communities across the United States while strengthening its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, corporate officials said.

“I've always believed that the best way to make an impact is through investment in our communities,” said FCR President and Founder Matthew Achak. “After doing substantial research into cities and towns for our next expansion, we decided that the city of Romulus presented us with many new opportunities. Romulus fits perfectly into our business model of offering customer service and technical support jobs to those living in small to mid-size communities. Romulus is a diverse city filled with hard-working people looking for new employment opportunities and pathways into tech. We are confident we will find plenty of candidates who have the skill set we are looking for.”

Mayor LeRoy Burcroff agreed with Achak assessment of the community.

“The City of Romulus is a home of opportunity, with a strong, diverse and hard-working talent base, as well as a business-friendly economic climate,” Romulus Mayor LeRoy Burcroff said. “We are thrilled to partner with the forward-thinking leaders at FCR to bring new and continuing job opportunities that offer local residents direct access to a career in technology, with the added flexibility of a work-from-home schedule.”

> *We decided that instead of waiting for the demographics to change within our existing communities, we would proactively expand into diverse communities and communities of color.”*

FCR plans to expand into Romulus and other diverse communities as part of an effort to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion, and address inequality in the workplace, Achak noted.

The company has pledged to increase its racial diversity, and is currently hiring a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Manager to ensure it meets its goals in this effort.

“It is impossible to ignore what is happening across the United States,” Achak said. “It made FCR take a look at our efforts concerning diversity and equity. We started asking ourselves what we could do differently and how we could make a difference. We asked if we were doing everything we could to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion in our workplaces, especially when it came to race. FCR has always been a company that has embraced diversity, and we support the movement for racial justice. One of our biggest challenges has been overcoming the lack of diversity within the regions that we currently operate and reside in. How does a company increase its diversity when little diversity exists where you work and live?”

As the country began to tackle the challenges of the Coronavirus pandemic, FCR pivoted away from a traditional brick-and-mortar call center operation to a remote work from home business model in mid-March. The move preserved nearly every company job, officials said.

“Unlike many industries during the pandemic, the demand for our services continues to grow. We continue to add jobs, hiring new employees directly into work-from-home positions for the very first time,” Achak said. “Suddenly, we are no longer operating in this old model that says we have to hire people in a specific physical location. Now, we can hire new colleagues from all over the country, targeting communities where we can access the best folks for specific roles and programs.”

“We decided that instead of waiting for the demographics to change within our existing communities, we would proactively expand into diverse communities and communities of color,” Achak said. “There are economic and demographic conditions in those communities that mirror what we see in Oregon, Montana, and Idaho.”

LeRoy Burcroff

“We have become a major employer in every city we currently operate in. We are excited to bring new jobs and interesting work to the Romulus community,” said Katheryn Carnahan, COO for FCR.

“What makes us different is that we offer our colleagues the opportunity to build lasting careers that utilize each individual's unique talents,” Carnahan said. “Our colleagues are the most important part of the equation to our success, and they allow us to accomplish all of our goals. We are confident that Romulus will provide us with the talent-rich environment we have been searching for, and we can't wait to get started.”

FCR will immediately offer work-from-home positions for Customer Service and Technical Support. In addition to entry-level positions, the company will also provide leadership and management opportunities. FCR is currently recruiting to support one of its largest clients, which is expanding its business in 2020. The company will initially hire 15 to 20 colleagues, with plans for additional hiring throughout the year.

Candidates will need a high-speed internet connection from their home. However, FCR will provide all necessary computer and telephone equipment. Those interested in learning more about FCR or who wish to apply for a position can do so at www.gofcr.com.

GriefShare program is now under way at 5 Points Church

A grief-recovery seminar and support group will meet at 5 Points Church in Romulus from 6 until 8 p.m. each Thursday beginning Sept. 17. The church is located at 37300 Goddard at Huron River Dr.

GriefShare offers help and encouragement after the death of a family member or friend in a warm, caring environment, organizers said.

The GriefShare experience offers a video seminar in which there will be encouraging, information-packed videos featuring leading grief recovery experts; a support group with small group discussions about the weekly video content and a workbook for journaling and personal-study exercises that reinforce the weekly session topics.

Participants cay attend any or all sessions. The $15 registration includes a workbook/journal and weekly handouts. Masks will be required for the safety and emotional security of all attending and seating will be arranged for social distancing.

More information is available by calling the church at (734)941-1511, or at www.griefshare.org.

Visit

FROM PAGE 1

adequate personal hygiene. Moreover, if Amazon is willing to call the police on congresswomen it invited to tour its facility, we can only imagine the harassment and intimidation Amazon workers have faced for speaking out. While some minor improvements have been made, many concerns remain unaddressed,” the elected officials said.

In August, Amazon officials said the company had spent more than $4 billion company-wide on improving coronavirus procedures in facilities across the country. According to an Amazon blog post, employees are provided training on mask-wearing, proper hand washing techniques and daily temperature checks.

At the Romulus facility, employees must undergo a temperature scan and health screening before being allowed to start their shift, according to Amazon officials. Social distancing assistants scan the work floor to determine when employees are too close to each other. Functioning somewhat like traffic lights, the social distancing assistants use video monitors which show a green light around employees maintaining proper distance. Red lights appear around workers who are too close together.

Those protocols were not in evidence during the congresswomen's visit.

“Amazon has been posting record sales throughout the pandemic, only possible thanks to its fulfillment center workforce. It's far past time that Amazon workers share in that prosperity, and having a safe workplace is the least Amazon can do. We are grateful to the Amazon workers on the floor who thanked us for being there, and we will not stop advocating for their right to a safe and fair working environment,” Tlaib and Dingell said.

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Canton - Plymouth

Death of renowned artist Kay Masini is mourned

The death of well-known artist Kay Masini is being mourned throughout the Plymouth community and on Beaver Island, her second home.

Mrs. Masini, who celebrated her 84th birthday July 31, died Sept. 19. She and her husband, Don, celebrated 70 years of marriage this year and he described her as "the love of my life." The couple shared many memories of their family times on Beaver Island and their travels. "I miss her more than anyone can imagine," her husband said.

Mrs. Masini's career as an artist was renowned. Her depth of art knowledge, techniques, experimentation, and dedication to learning and improving her skills was exceptional and remarkable, her family said. Her work was featured in many shows and she had a one-woman exhibition of her work in Canton Township last year.

A lifelong painter, Mrs. Masini served on art boards and as a member of national and international organizations. The Internationale Vriendenkring gave her a solo show in Antwerp, Belgium, where her paintings are represented in many private collections.

She devoured art books; studied the masters and took workshops with top instructors, her family said. She developed writing skills and used her fount of knowledge to create poetry which she used on her annual Christmas card project which was published from a combination of the cards she created over 50 years, they added.

Mrs. Masini won numerous awards and two of her paintings were selected for inclusion in the first North Light book "Acrylic Works - the Best of Acrylic Painting." She was one of only five Michigan artists to be included.

The artist attended high school in the Chicago area. She earned her bachelor degree at the Dominican University in River Forest, Ill.

She studied at the Chicago Art Institute and Oxford University in England, as well as in multiple workshops with leading instructors in the United States. Mrs. Masini was a partner in a marketing communications firm, based in St. Joseph, MI, representing major U.S. clients, plus financial, health and educational institutions.

"She was a remarkable woman; wife; mother; grandmother and great-grandmother," her husband said.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Masini is survived by daughter, Lita (the late David) Popke; sons, Michael (Cindy) Masini and Jon (Julie) Masini; daughter, Lynne (Don) Eckardt; grandchildren, Alexandra (Jason), Kit, Lisa (Brian) Kiersten, Hank, Anna, Kevin, Jack and Donald, and great-granddaughter, Abigail. She is also survived by a sister, Michele (Jim) Stamm, and many beloved nieces and nephews, along with a multitude of friends and fellow artists.

She was the daughter of Sadie Gallagher Peternard and Roland Bruce McDonough, who preceded her in death as did a brother, John (Grace) Peternard.

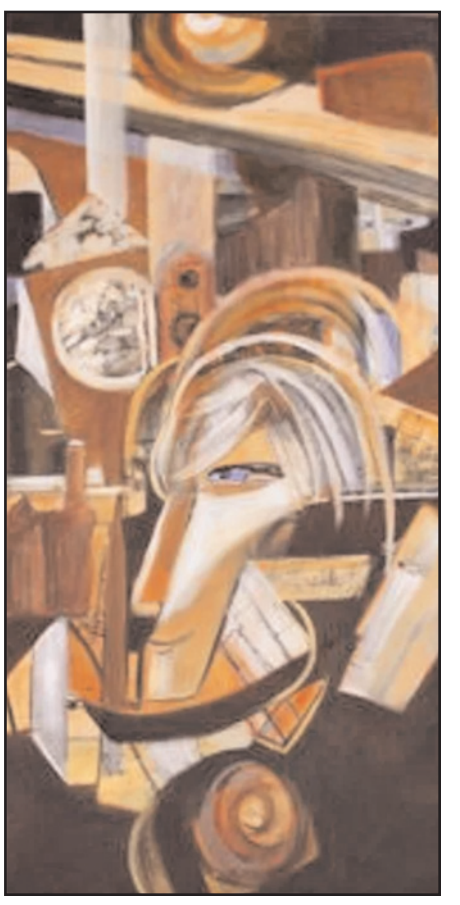
Visitation is planned for 5 until 7 p.m. tomorrow, Sept. 18 with a rosary immediately following at Holy Cross Catholic Church, 26325 Main St., Beaver Island. She will lie in state from 10:30 until a funeral mass at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 19 at the church.

The family is suggesting memorials may be made to Beaver Island Historical Society, 26275 Main St., Beaver Island, MI 49782 or Beaver Island Marine Museum, 38105 Michigan Ave., Beaver Island, MI 49782.

Kay Masini

A public celebration of Mrs. Masini's life is planned for next month in Plymouth although the date and time have not yet been determined.

Below are some examples of Mrs. Masini's artwork.



Polls

FROM PAGE 1

line," he said, with workers handling each part.

"It's almost like being a bank teller," said Vorva, also a former state representative. "You can't go home until you balance."

LeBlanc is using social media for recruiting poll workers and plans a cable television spot. Word of mouth and State of Michigan help are also helping. LeBlanc added that teens ages 16-17 are hired in too at $100 for eight hours' work, with the hope they will stay on as poll workers after turning 18.

Nearly every other local municipal clerk has expressed the same need for poll workers and concern about misinformation regarding mail-in or absentee ballots. There are prominently labeled ballot boxes outside most city and township halls and clerks are more than willing to help absentee voters ensure their ballots are properly counted.

In Romulus, City Clerk Ellen Craig-Bragg also stressed the importance of only applying for an absentee ballot one time. She noted that those who already applied do not need to pay attention to mass mailings urging them to apply again for a ballot.

She suggested that anyone who has any question about the status of their absentee ballot call their local clerk's office to check and ensure they would be receiving the ballot they requested.

"We are here to help," Craig-Bragg said.

Former district band director named to new school post

While students at Workman Elementary School in Canton returned to classes in a virtual world last week, they will have plenty of support in their studies.

Marc Whitlock, a 17-year veteran of the Plymouth Canton Community Schools district has been named the new Student Support Coordinator at Workman. Whitlock, who has been an educator for 28 years, was most recently a teacher at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park and Discovery Middle School while also leading the world-renown Plymouth-Canton Marching Band.

In addition to his classroom responsibilities, he has been very active working on curriculum design, serving as the department chair for visual and performing arts, physical education and world languages and was an educator leader for the district K-12 arts task force, according to a prepared statement from the district.

In addition to his time in Plymouth-Canton, Whitlock was a music teacher at Hebron High School in Carrollton, TX and Marian Catholic High School in Chicago Heights, IL. He also spent four years with Mason Entertainment Group as the music manager for "Blast! - The Musical," working with the Broadway U.S. touring cast.

Whitlock earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Morehead State University and a master of music degree from Sam Houston University.

He is widely published and has served as the chief administrator for adjudication for Winterguard International, an American performing arts association, governing body, and the producer of regional championship events for three activities: color guard, percussion ensembles, and small marching bands, for many years.

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2C4RDGBG7DR723371
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1FTNE2426YHB30439
2007 CHEVROLET
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1G2AL55F077235588
2007 JEEP
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2GCEC19W4X1293314
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WESTLAND

City OK's purchase of solar speed signs

Motorists in Westland will be graphically reminded to slow down in several areas by solar powered radar signs.

Members of the city council approved the purchase of 10 of the solar-powered radar signs at a cost of $27,285 at a recent meeting. The purchase will be funded through the city Metro Act budget. The city utilizes state Metro Act funds for public improvements within city right of ways.

In 2019, Westland received a traffic grant which allowed for the strategic placement of similar solar radar signs throughout the community. Existing signs have shown to significantly reduce speeding in those locations, noted Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik.

"Reduced speeds help protect our pedestrians and bicyclists," Jedrusik said. "After conducting further traffic studies, we have identified additional locations which would increase the efficiency of our pedestrian safety program."

> *"Reduced speeds help protect our pedestrians and bicyclists,*

Signs are proposed for installation at Wildwood between Ford and Hunter (both northbound and southbound) due to Jaycee Park, Edison School, as well as the Mike Modano Ice Arena; Ann Arbor Trail in the area of Hubbard Street (both eastbound and westbound) due to the new subdivision which may increase vehicular traffic and also the recent removal of a red light which had been in placed at the intersection for many years; Cowan between Farmington and Millwood Street (both eastbound and westbound) due to having two separate High Schools on Cowan Street; Glenwood near Treadwell (westbound) due to the Schweitzer Elementary School and the school crossing on Glenwood; Henry Ruff between Annapolis and Van Born (northbound) due to the residential area and the church along with the large curve of the roadway making speed an issue in that area and Venoy between Cherry Hill and Palmer due to the high number of speed violations and the close proximity of the houses located on the busy roadway.

"During the Master Planning process in 2017, the City of Westland identified pedestrian safety as a priority to increase walkability in the community," commented Mayor William R. Wild.

"The purchase of these signs will allow us to continue making progress towards that goal as well as increase the safety of our roadways."

Installation of the new signs is slated to take place this fall, officials said.

Public service director awarded national honor

Ramzi El Gharib

Ramzi El-Gharib has been presented a life membership award by the American Public Works Association (APWA). El-Gharib, the public services director for the City of Westland, was selected for the honor in recognition of his 30 years of continuous membership with the APWA.

The American Public Works Association is a national organization with memberships in all 50 states and Canada. It promotes professional excellence through education, advocacy, and the exchange of knowledge, according to the official website. The APWA strives to increase competence, credibility, and influence of a growing community of diverse and committed public works leaders who serve as a centerpiece of every community to enhance health, productivity, and quality of life.

> *"Ramzi is well respected by his peers and has been an incredible asset to our team.*

El-Gharib has served as the Westland director of public service since July of 2014 and has worked for municipal governments for 33 years. He obtained a bachelors and masters degree in civil engineering from Wayne State University and is a registered professional engineer in the State of Michigan.

"Ramzi is well respected by his peers and has been an incredible asset to our team, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience from his long municipal career," commented Westland Mayor William R. Wild. "Under his leadership, many Westland Public Works projects have been recognized and awarded "Project of the Year" by the APWA over the past six years."

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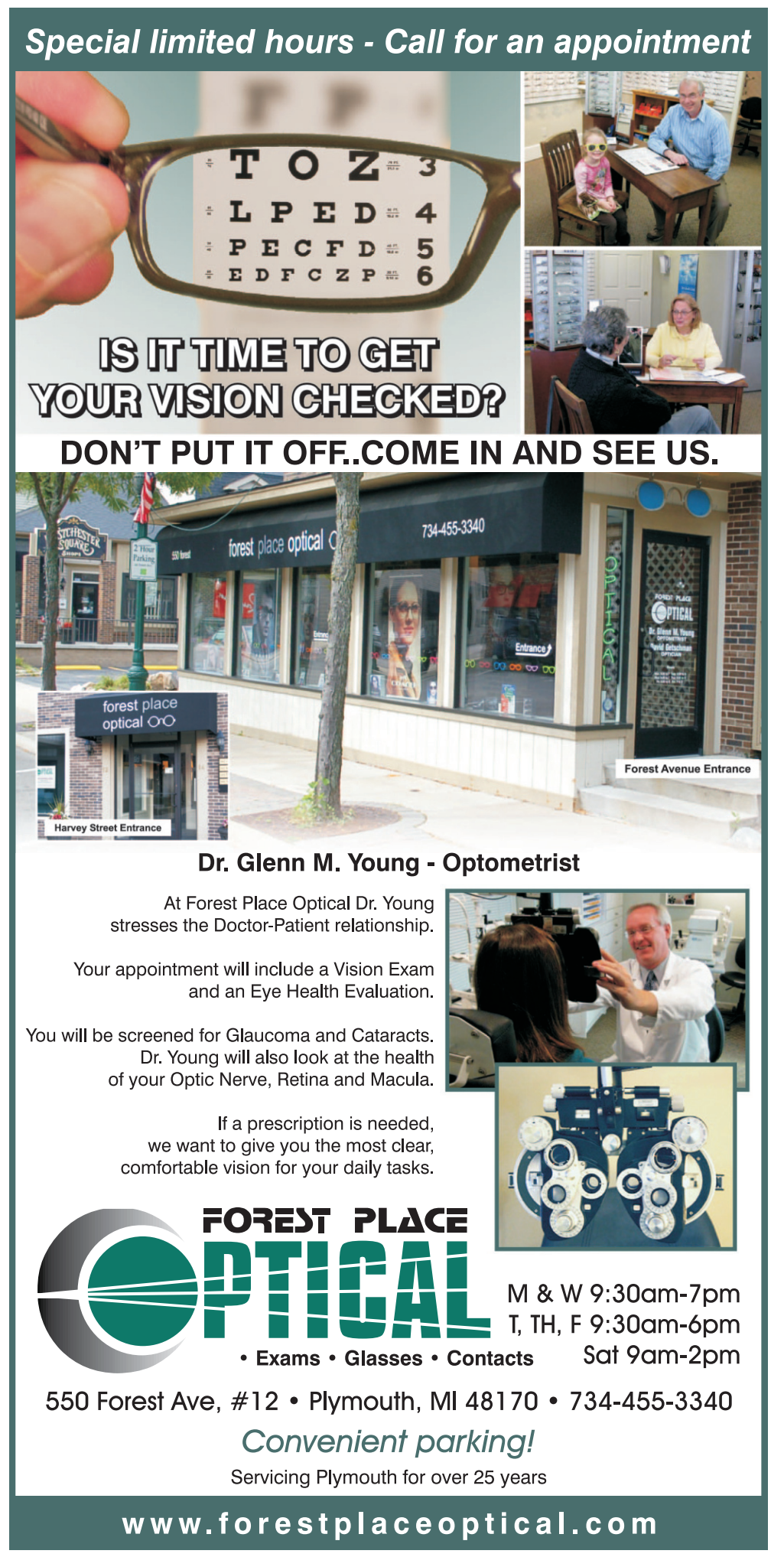
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Northville - Wayne

Former Wayne judge named to national post

> *Given that our justice system is all too often the default mental health system, the work of this task force is timely, essential, and lifesaving.*

State Court Administrator Emeritus, Milton Mack, Jr., has been appointed to serve on a national task force to assist state courts in more effectively responding to the needs of court-involved individuals with serious mental illness. The 40-member group includes four state supreme court chief justices, four state court administrators, and wide range of experts from across the nation.

Mack, a Wayne resident and former judge at the 29th District Court, has long been an advocate for mental health reform, promoting early intervention and treatment instead of incarceration.

"Given that our justice system is all too often the default mental health system, the work of this task force is timely, essential, and lifesaving," said Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack. "Milt's incredible experience and knowledge on this challenging issue will help courts become the catalyst for diverting individuals to treatment instead of jail or prison."

Since spring of last year, Mack has co-chaired (with Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul Reiber) a national advisory committee funded by the State Justice Institute to improve the justice system response to mental illness and co-occurring disorders, and this new task force is a direct result of that work. McCormak noted that the task force faces challenges as currently jails are the largest providers of mental health services in the nation and 44 percent of jail inmates have been told they have a mental health disorder. In addition, an estimated 70 percent of justice-involved youths suffer from a mental health disorder and people with mental illness are 16 times more likely to be killed than other civilians when approached or stopped by law enforcement.

In the report of the advisory committee, The Future is Now: Decriminalization of Mental Illness, the reform plan is based on a community-by-community approach with statewide leadership; use of the Sequential Intercept Model to promote early access to treatment; development of best practices, research, and data; education and training for judges and court personnel and building on the important work already done to address the opioid epidemic.

A probate court judge for two decades, Mack is the former State Court Administrator, chair of the Governor's Mental Health Diversion Council, and has long been an advocate for mental health reform.

Mack will be joined on the task force by Washtenaw County Sheriff Jerry Clayton and Kent Batty, who previously served as the court administrator for the Washtenaw County trial courts and Third Judicial Circuit Court.

Milton Mack, Jr.

Northville financial report is honored for 7th year

Northville Township Treasurer Fred Shadko accepts the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

> *Northville Township is proud to be one of only 27 communities in Michigan to be recognized, out of nearly 1,800 cities, villages and townships.*

For the seventh consecutive year, the Charter Township of Northville has been awarded the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

Northville Township received the award for satisfying nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation which assess how well the township budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device. The award represents a significant achievement by Northville Township and reflects the commitment of the board of trustees and staff to meeting the highest principles in governmental budgeting. Northville Township is proud to be one of only 27 communities in Michigan to be recognized, out of nearly 1,800 cities, villages and townships, a spokesman noted.

To view Northville Township's current budget document and additional information, please visit https://www.twp.northville.mi.us/budget.

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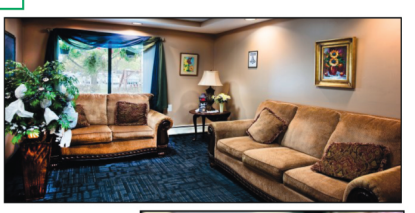

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